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### The Greatest Circles.

The intended peregrinations and official gyrations of the Secretary of War possess much interest for philosophers. Mr. TAFT expects to start next Saturday for Gatun Dam and elsewhere. Common report has in store for this diligent public servant and intrepid traveler an amazing series of successions of journeys, between now and the beginning of the Presidential year, which will take him to Panama, Colon, Cuba, Porto Rico, Canada, Alaska, the Philippines, Guam and Tutuila, with brief intervals of domestic employment.

Other candidates, active or passive, have swung around their chosen circles; no circle was ever drawn with a radius anything like this.

We note one thing, however, about the Taft itinerary distinguishing it from all precedent and previous experience even more signally than the matter of mere distance. We refer to the paucity of delegates. In all these tens of thousands of miles of campaigning we can discern not more than eighteen possible votes in the convention, and the Recording Angel well knows that six of these are already sworn for CANNON.

No delegates worth speaking of are between Gatun and Guam! That is why we say this particular itinerary has a fascinating interest for the philosophical mind.

### A Superfluous Conference.

The National Civic Federation, forever illustrious for the trust conference which it assembled at Chicago in 1899, seeks new dangers and laurels. It is going to call another session of the parliament of thought, some time in May at some city yet to be chosen. Federal and State regulation of corporations and the operation of the Sherman act against trusts will be the chief themes to be pondered. The Governors are to be requested to appoint delegates. Diverse bodies and associations, mercantile, farming, labor, law, and so on, are to have seats in this great council. If the Hon. BOYKIN COCKRAN gets back from Memphis and old Nile in time the glories of the memorable powwow of 1899 may be equalled.

With all respect to all the respectable, learned, eminent and worthy gentlemen who compose the National Civic Federation or will compose the "symposium" planned for May, will not their witenagemot be wasted? The Governors are likely to be kept busy with "consultations" with the All-Ruler at Washington. The regulation of corporations and of everything else is in one pair of capable hands. The "trust problem" and every other problem will be settled by the same final authority. There is, or was, a conference called the Congress; but it has learned its place.

The proposed conference may not be an impertinence, but surely it will be a futility. Why not give some of the money it would cost to the college debasing societies?

### Kang Yu Wei.

KANG YU WEI, president of the Chinese Reform Association, arrived here from Europe on Sunday. For nine years he has been a forceful and picturesque figure in Chinese affairs. Much of that time, to be sure, he has been an outcast and a wanderer, keeping his head on his shoulders only by transferring his sphere of activity to foreign parts. Hongkong, Singapore, Japan, England and the Pacific coast of America have seen much of him in these years; and the world now watches and wonders as, one by one, the reforms for which KANG YU WEI preached and pleaded are made ready to be woven some day into the fabric of the Chinese national polity.

KANG YU WEI was the leading member of the party that in 1898 tried to launch China on the path of reform. He won the complete confidence of the young Emperor, who was induced by his zealous and patriotic mentor between June 11 and September 15 to promulgate twenty-six decrees announcing reforms of the most revolutionary character in the policy and government of China. A week after his last decree the Emperor was swept aside by the Dowager Empress, KANG was a fugitive and several of his colleagues had been executed.

This great Celestial was right in his ideas of the needs of China and of the reforms the empire required; but the hour had not quite come. He was more zealous than judicious; he was precipitate when patience and caution would have served him better. He admitted the following year that he had been too fast. With a price on his head he has always credited the Dowager Empress with liberal tendencies, though she believed the time was not ripe for radical political changes.

The world now sees that eminent woman in a rather different light from that in which she appeared when she suppressed the Emperor and encouraged the Boxers. There is evidence now that she believed reformatory measures were absolutely necessary, but they should be carried out slowly without startling the country by a large programme of innovation; and she encouraged the Boxers not because she expected to drive foreign influence out of China, but because, alarmed by the encroachments of the Powers upon Chinese soil, she believed

the Boxer uprising might convince the Occident that it would cost more than it was worth to violate the territorial integrity of the empire.

The day of change dawned when the allied armies began the march on Peking. The seed sown by KANG and his party is already bearing fruit. The reforms which he induced the Emperor to announce are the very measures that have been proclaimed by the Government of China. The education abroad of picked students preparatory to taking official positions, the abolition of classical essays as a part of civil service examinations, the study of Western science, legal procedure, administrative methods, systems of military drill and organization, the translation of scientific books and the opening of schools to use them as texts are all among the reforms announced in the Emperor's decrees. Some of the remarkable innovations now seen in China were not included in the Emperor's programme of 1898.

KANG YU WEI is now at the head of the Reform Association, which has 3,000,000 members. He sees progress along most of the lines of change and improvement which he proposed. Perhaps his presence in China would not be permitted even now, but many of his ideas are showing great vitality there, and his writings circulate without hindrance throughout the country. Few great reformers have done more than sow the seed, but it has been the remarkable fortune of KANG YU WEI to witness the promotion and prosperity of the very ideas whereof the promulgation a few years ago made him a hunted fugitive.

### The Law Concerning Survivorship.

The recent disastrous wreck of the Channel steamer Berlin at the Hook of Holland has already given rise in England to serious questions under the law of survivorship as bearing upon the property rights of the heirs and next of kin of passengers who were lost. In commenting upon these controversies the London *Lancet* refers to the provisions of the French Code, which establishes presumptions in such cases, and that journal states that the rules which now exist in France in respect to survivorship were in force in the territory of Orleans at the time of its cession to the United States and have since been incorporated into the Code of Louisiana. The *Lancet* adds: "They have also with some modifications been adopted in the State of New York."

This statement as to the law of New York is erroneous. The rules in regard to survivorship which prevail in France, Germany, Spain and other countries which have derived their jurisprudence from the Roman law are not recognized by the law of this State. Indeed, they have found little favor in any States of the Union except in Louisiana and possibly to a limited extent in California. In New York, when a number of persons perish by a common disaster there is no legal presumption that any one has survived any other, in the absence of proof as to the actual fact.

It is quite otherwise under the civil law. The Code Napoleon provides that where several persons perish by one and the same accident, so that it is not possible to ascertain which of them died first, the presumption of survivorship depends upon the age and sex of those who have perished. If those who have perished together were under fifteen years of age, the eldest is presumed to have survived. If they were all above sixty, the youngest is presumed to have survived. If some were under fifteen and others more than sixty, those under fifteen are presumed to have survived. In a case where those who have perished together were more than fifteen years of age but less than sixty, the male is always presumed to have survived, where ages are equal or the difference does not exceed one year. In such a case, if those lost were of the same sex, the younger is presumed to have survived the elder.

In addition to these presumptions established by the French Code and having, of course, in France all the force of positive statute, there are several general considerations to which much weight is given by the courts in those jurisdictions whose law is derived from that of Rome. One of these is that man is deemed most likely to survive where man and woman perish in the same calamity; and another is that in cases of suffocation the woman is deemed likely to live longer than a man under the same conditions. In a very elaborate work on medical jurisprudence, by Professor RUDOLPH WITTHAUS of this city and Mr. TRACY C. BECKER of the Buffalo bar, it is stated that the presumption that man is most likely to survive where man and woman perish in the same calamity "received a melancholy confirmation in the wreck of the Atlantic in 1873, in which out of three hundred survivors from a steamer crowded with immigrants there was not a single woman or child." This statement is slightly erroneous, as there was one baby, less than three years old, among those who were rescued from that celebrated wreck.

In Mr. JOHN D. LAWSON's well known book on the Law of Presumptions the rule of the English common law that prevails generally throughout the United States is stated in these words: "There is no presumption as to the order in which two or more persons died who are shown to have perished in the same accident, shipwreck or battle. The law regards them as having died at the same instant."

The last sentence in Mr. LAWSON's rule is hardly an accurate statement of the law upon this subject as laid down by the highest court in this State. In the case of NEWELL against NICHOLS, which was decided by the Court of Appeals in 1878, it was held that in the absence of actual evidence as to survivorship the fact is assumed to be unascertainable and the property rights of those who have perished are disposed of as if death occurred at the same instant of time, not because of a presumption of simultaneous death, but because there is no evidence or presumption to the contrary. In that case Chief Judge CHURCH, who wrote the opinion of the court, said:

"It is not impossible for two persons to die at the same time, and when exposed to the same peril under like circumstances it is not, as a ques-

tion of probability, very unlikely to happen. At most the difference can only be a few brief seconds. The scene passes at once beyond the vision of human penetration, and it is as unbecoming as it is idle for judicial tribunals to speculate or guess whether during the momentary life struggle one or the other may not have ceased to gasp first, especially when the transmission of title to property depends upon it; and hence in the absence of other evidence the fact is assumed to be unascertainable, and property rights are disposed of as if death occurred at the same time. This is done not because the fact is proved, or that there is no presumption to that effect, but because there is no evidence and no presumption to the contrary."

The case in which this opinion was written arose out of the death of four persons on the same ship, the Schiller, which was wrecked and totally lost near the Scilly Islands on May 7, 1875. The litigation related to rights, under a will, of the mother of the testatrix, aged 69 years; the husband, aged 45; a daughter, aged 10, and a son, aged 7 years; all of whom were lost on the Schiller. The law as laid down in the opinion of Chief Judge CHURCH on the presumption of survivorship has never since been questioned in the courts of this State.

### A Double Barreled Bill.

On account of the impudence of the inspectors of police in their opposition to the Bingham bill, slight attention has been given to the section of that measure by which it is proposed to confer on the Commissioner power to organize a force of real detectives in his department; yet this is a most important feature of the proposed legislation. At present the so-called "Detective Bureau" is composed of a few good men and a great number of incompetent chainwalkers. All good and bad, are permanent fixtures in their jobs. The most stupid and useless of them cannot be assigned to other work, and must be kept on the roll, regardless of failure to perform his duties.

Meanwhile, there are in the Department men possessing the detective instinct, anxious to do detective work, and capable of giving a good account of themselves in it. These men cannot be put into the bureau, however, because there are no vacancies. The law prevents the Commissioner from using the material at hand. It compels him to intrust investigations requiring a high degree of skill and industry to men whom he knows to be entirely unfit for such tasks. This situation is eminently pleasing to the beneficiaries, the insecure holders at 300 Mulberry street, and also to the criminally inclined portion of the population. If the Police Department is to be maintained for the comfort and sustenance of these, the existing arrangement is ideal.

What the Bingham bill seeks to do is to give authority to the Commissioner to create a body of detectives consisting of men who have shown aptitude for this kind of work, to strengthen it by weeding out the incompetent and replacing them with promising policemen, and to bring it to a state of reasonable efficiency. The proposal does not seem particularly offensive. It may, indeed, commend itself to the honest folk of the community, to the householder, the tenement dweller, the cave man of the apartment houses, the merchants, and to all who have an interest in the safeguarding of their lives and of their property.

Can it be possible that the Senate of New York will refuse to pass a bill conceived in good sense and designed to protect the honest residents of New York from the thieves and thugs?

### Contract Passes Under the Rate Law.

The question whether the prohibition of free passes in the first section of the railroad rate act approved June 29, 1906, applies to contracts to furnish free transportation for a valuable consideration before the enactment of the law will soon come up in the United States Supreme Court on the appeal of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company from the judgment of the Federal court at Louisville in favor of ERASMUS L. MOLTREY and his wife.

Injured in a collision at Randolph Station, Ky., in 1871, MOLTREY and his wife agreed to accept free transportation during their lives in lieu of damages. On January 1, 1907, the company refused to issue annual passes to Mr. and Mrs. MOLTREY, on the ground that it would render itself liable to a fine of \$2,000 for violating the section of the railroad rate law, which provides that "no common carrier subject to this act shall, after January 1, 1907, directly or indirectly give any interstate free ticket, free pass or free transportation to passengers." There are some thirty or forty classes of travellers excepted, and some of the exceptions might be liberally construed, but by some oversight continuing contracts for free transportation and for valid consideration were not dealt with in the act. There have been cases of a grant or promise of free transportation instead of cash payment for a right of way, for damage to adjacent property by fire and for breach of many forms of contract, as well as for injury to the person, have been settled by an agreement to give and to receive free transportation for a term or for life.

Upon the refusal of the company to issue annual passes to them the MOLTREYS brought suit, and Judge EVANS, holding that it was not the intention of Congress to interfere with rights acquired under a bona fide contract, ordered the company to furnish the passes as usual. There was, of course, an appeal from the decision. It may be presumed that hundreds of similar contracts were in existence at the time of the enactment of the Hepburn law, and the companies no less than the original pass holders are interested in a final adjudication of this vexed question. It is probable that upon the advice of their attorneys some companies have continued to issue passes for valuable consideration and even for services performed. In each case they may have rendered themselves liable to a fine of \$2,000, and unwittingly the pass user may have exposed himself to the same penalty, since it is to be visited upon receiver as well as giver.

It would be a peculiar irony if the first decision of the highest court upon a disputed point in the rate law were to sweep away the vested right of a passenger and

relieve a railroad from the performance of a responsibility it had never contested. The opinion of Judge EVANS in the district court seems rational, since a pass is in the nature of a gift, a gratuity or a favor, at least in theory, and the transportation given to the MOLTREYS was in fulfillment of an agreement which could have been enforced in a State or Federal court.

### Mr. Fairbanks.

The country looks up to the Hon. CHARLES WARREN FAIRBANKS. It finds rest and quiet in his occasional addresses. It sees in him the representative of the healthful, invigorating yet never boisterous forces of virtue and buttermilk. It knows him as a man who will not make enemies rashly, whose eloquence is ceremonial, warranted safe and intelligible for all good children of Sunday school age. In this rude and rapid age it ought to be a consolation and a moral strengthening to feel that whatever dangers may be reserved for the United States, whatever trouble may be in store for future Presidents, Mr. FAIRBANKS is ready to move into the White House whenever the country asks him. With his reserve and surplus of approved wisdom, with his command of all the resources of the copybook, with his unfaltering adherence to the good and the true, he is a statesman whose moral worth and invincible willingness to please stand at least as many hands high as he does.

We submit, most respectfully, however, that Mr. FAIRBANKS is injudicious in his efforts to hustle. Why should he make four speeches in one day, as he did in Chicago? One speech of his a week is as much as any community ought to be called upon to digest. Moreover, in rushing from breakfast to luncheon and dinner, from hall to hall, from hand to hand, Mr. FAIRBANKS incurs odorous comparisons. He should attempt no "whirlwind campaign," no cyclonic busting, no wild sprinting, no monopoly of all ears, no irresistible obsession and possession of the public. A halcyon and vociferous activity does not become him. Let him be bland, sedate, quiescent, Olympian, calm.

Besides, Mr. FAIRBANKS is altogether too rash and sudden, too premature. He should make himself expected. The nation should be conscious that he is wise and good and "receptive." He should hunt delegates on the quiet. He should not be visibly too eager and anxious. It is curious to see how the all shadowing figure at Washington has affected even the Skyscraper. A woolly horse cannot well be kept dark, but at least it should not try to imitate more mettled chargers.

Labor employed at better wages than ever before, and our eight-five million folk are eating three times as much food as a generation ago, and sleeping sweetly at night. — *Ex-Secretary SHAW.*

About the unpatched clothes they may be a question—honest thrift can wear a patch; but there is enough work and food in the country for all and sleep is an untaxed necessity. Perhaps Mr. SHAW was trying to improve upon the full dinner pail. As a bouncing optimist he is second to none.

### The Value of Perspective.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—It has struck me recently that what this nation needs most is a knowledge of perspective. Could all our statesmen, railroad presidents, citizens, and first, but not least, our Chief Executive, realize that there is such a thing as a middle distance, much good might come of such knowledge. In drawing a panorama in perspective, the draughtsman soon realizes that if he places his picture plane too near the object of interest in the foreground, the object is enlarged and distorted in relation to the balance of the picture. For instance, a two-cent railroad fare rate all over this large continent would, I venture to say, seem to a student of perspective (as applied to economics) about as ridiculous as a law that from April 1 (note the date) next all stocks on the New York Stock Exchange shall start at 100.

Looking back in history I find that our nation's belief in the infallibility of the President has a parallel in the belief of the subjects of Canute that in that most wise ruler. The latter was a Danish king who died in 1035, and his subjects would kneel to him even when he waded in the sea. To the President of the United States, however, it is not his subjects who kneel, but his subjects in error he placed himself in a chair on the shore as the tide was about to flow. My only fear is that our President might do the same thing, only on an ebb tide.

PRINCETON, N. J., March 18.

### Are Whiskers Returning to Favor?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—I attended a party last night, and saw a number of your fashionable restaurant men, and I noticed that some of them were sporting whiskers. I noticed that some of them were sporting whiskers. I noticed that some of them were sporting whiskers.

NEW YORK, March 17.

### Are Red Haired People Brighter?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Looking over the help wanted ads this morning I came across this one: "Wanted—Red haired boy wanted for office work." Boy Wanted—Red haired boy wanted for office work.

NEW YORK, March 17.

### The Shame of London.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—The reason that the cocktail tables differently in New York from their brother cocktail in London is that the London cocktail is not a cocktail, but a blend. No London bartender would ever serve you a cocktail that is not a cocktail, but a blend.

NEW YORK, March 17.

### English in the Orient.

From the London Daily Mail. A trading firm at Peking has received the following communication: "Dear Sir:—The Chinese calendar in your company is glance in looking to be sure surpassing all the others; and also it is gigantic beyond example in connection with its fine space, while I look at it, I shall be very much obliged, if you will kindly give me some places, as I have great deal of interest in it."

### Latest Truths About the Colon.

From the New York Medical Journal. The colon bacillus is usually ranked in the saprophytic group of bacteria rather than placed among the organisms distinctly pathogenic for man; but we know that it is far from being devoid of virulence, and that it is capable under certain conditions of gaining increased powers of invading the organism and of manifesting very definite pathogenic effects.

### INFANTRY AMMUNITION.

The Soldier's Portable Supply The Great Problem of the Modern Battle.

Perhaps the gravest question for the commander of infantry in our day is that of ammunition supply, a question which involves the necessity for a large supply carried by the soldier, the control of its use and expenditure to the best advantage, and a sure means of replacing the used ammunition. It is a fact worth noting that the number of rounds carried by the soldier has not increased in the same ratio as the rapidity of fire. The bringing of ammunition to the front has become more difficult on the battlefield on account of the greater accuracy and the flatter trajectory of the modern arm, which extends the zone of danger behind the firing line. The advance of ammunition wagons or carriers to the firing line has become almost an impossibility during the progress of a heavy engagement.

All nations are striving to increase the number of rounds carried by the soldier. The Germans have secured this to a certain extent with their rifle "98" and their so-called "S" ammunition, a pointed bullet of small weight but high velocity. The number of rounds that could be carried by the soldier was the bringing of ammunition to the front has become more difficult on the battlefield on account of the greater accuracy and the flatter trajectory of the modern arm, which extends the zone of danger behind the firing line. The advance of ammunition wagons or carriers to the firing line has become almost an impossibility during the progress of a heavy engagement.

Other nations have attempted to increase the number by reducing the calibre of the piece, and others again by the use of special cartridge belts, pouches or bandoliers, distributing the weight more conveniently. The French have tried to accomplish the object of doing greater execution in a different way, not by increasing the number of rounds carried but by controlling the expenditure of ammunition by tactical measures which limited the number of rounds. Individual rapid fire, which wasted so much ammunition, could be used, prescribing targets of special importance and adopting the so-called *rafale* fire. The French army has worked out the problem of how, without increasing the total weight carried by the soldier, the number of rounds of ammunition carried can be raised to 200 a man. The condition is imposed that the soldier shall carry more than forty-four pounds in all, including two heavy rifles and their magazines; moreover, the pack must admit of subdivision, so that when the soldier goes into action he can take only the absolutely necessary, 200 rounds, his rations, fente, overcoat, and his rifle and magazine.

The Russo-Japanese war furnishes some interesting data on the subject of ammunition. The regulation supply for the Japanese 6.35 inch rifle was 120 rounds a man. The Japanese term for the magazine was the surest means of attaining the object, accepting the dictum that the more the fire action is condensed (delivered in short periods of time) the greater its effect, and that the victor is he who can deliver the longest continued use or expenditure of a large amount of ammunition.

It was therefore proposed to furnish the soldier with as great an amount of ammunition as possible when he went into action. The Japanese carried 200 rounds in their knapsacks and making a roll of their pack, which was carried in a long bag over one shoulder, they carried 200 rounds. Others wore their overcoats into action and filled their pockets with cartridges. Each carried a tin of 200 rounds, and the tin was the surest means of attaining the object, accepting the dictum that the more the fire action is condensed (delivered in short periods of time) the greater its effect, and that the victor is he who can deliver the longest continued use or expenditure of a large amount of ammunition.

The supply of ammunition from the rear was brought up by ammunition carts. These were drawn by mules or pack animals, and carried 10,000 rounds, but the poor roads prevented their use, and pack animals were killed or even carried off by coolies. The Japanese campaign furnished no important examples of the use of the ammunition supply, and this was done very effectively. Data are available only for the Japanese actions in Manchuria, and at the battle of the Yalu the Japanese fired seventy-five rounds a rifle; at the battle of the Yalu the Japanese fired seventy-five rounds a rifle; at the battle of the Yalu the Japanese fired seventy-five rounds a rifle.

The Russian troops also carried 120 rounds according to regulations, and each battalion carried 100 rounds. The Russian troops also carried 120 rounds according to regulations, and each battalion carried 100 rounds. The Russian troops also carried 120 rounds according to regulations, and each battalion carried 100 rounds.

Like the Japanese, the Russians made every effort to give the troops going into action as many rounds as possible. Each soldier carried 120 rounds, and the Russian troops also carried 120 rounds according to regulations, and each battalion carried 100 rounds.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—I attended a party last night, and saw a number of your fashionable restaurant men, and I noticed that some of them were sporting whiskers. I noticed that some of them were sporting whiskers.

### Spirited Defence of Old Man Greenhut.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—I must raise my voice against the so-called "impachment" of OLD MAN GREENHUT—please send it all in capital letters, as "Gambler" went so far in his pettiness as to write me a letter, signed "Greenhut with a capital." This tin horn "Gambler" calls Greenhut and his crowd a "bunch of robbers and murderers." That shows he has no sense, and is a very bad man, and is a very bad man, and is a very bad man.

NEW YORK, March 17.

### Settled a Serious Question.

From the Tampa State Journal. A good-looking man noted for his prudence and practicality has lately been pondering the problem of whether to buy an umbrella, which he needs very much, now the rainy season is coming on, but which he thinks is a waste of money, as he doesn't exactly need it, but wants so much that he keeps her awake nights. The other day he settled it to his own satisfaction by deciding on the kitchen, than an umbrella, because you can only use an umbrella when it is raining, but a kitchen you have with you always. Besides, you can borrow an umbrella, but nobody would lend an Angola.

NEW YORK, March 17.

### A Church 325 Years.

From the Boston Herald. Hingham has the oldest church edifice now in use in America—the First Unitarian Church. The building is 325 years old. John B. Lewis has been sexton and bell ringer at the church for more than fifty years.

### Old Favorites Improved: After Wordsworth.

THIS TOWN IS TOO MUCH FOR US. Little and spending, we lay waste our powers; Greeting and spending, we lay waste our powers; Greeting and spending, we lay waste our powers.

### REGULATION AND DEFINITION.

What Is the Constitutional Meaning of "Commerce" and "Among?"

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The correct construction of the interstate commerce clause of section 8 of Article I of the Constitution does not depend so much on the proper meaning of the word "regulate," for that is defined by the reference to commerce with foreign nations and with the Indian tribes, as on the words "commerce" and "among," two of our "commonest" words, to which we have "admittedly" the most ridiculous significations within the past few years. We have been accustomed to see taken for granted that "commerce among" the States under laws more or less favorable to interstate and "transportation across" the borders of States are interchangeable.

"Commerce" (cum, with; merco, to trade), the word of the Constitution, is simply the transaction of buying and selling. The word "among," but, as a merchant and signifies that there must be a merchant and a customer, but not necessarily a barter or a transporting—carry over. Hence Congress is concerned with the merchant, or taxpayer, and the merchandise, on which a tax may be levied. It is not concerned with the transportation of the merchandise, but with the transportation except in instances which formerly were the rule—the transportation interest was also the merchant. It is the interest of those merchants who also engaged in navigation, as a matter of necessity, that Congress undertook to "regulate" according to clause 9, section 9 of Article I of the Constitution; in compliance of which Congress passed, in 1790, "An act for the 'government and regulation' of seamen in the merchant service."

I am aware that commerce has been defined as "traffic." It is from such a false construction that we have so much harmful legislation by the captains of industry who are the supporters of the tariff. This traffic is represented as including "transportation" (trans, over; porto, to carry), a most pernicious construction, and a perversion of the merchant service.

Moreover, the regulations of Congress shall apply to commerce among the several States. The word "among" should have been used. A discrimination between States is prohibited by the Constitution. It is not intended to say that distribution is signified by the word "among." Therefore, it means that commerce which "mingles" or distributes to the several States, and which is not confined to a unit, and cannot be separated into parts, and the term "interstate" is a misnomer. The interstate commerce clause applies to domestic commerce applies to such rivalry between the States as formerly was the rule, and the interstate commerce clause applies to domestic commerce applies to such rivalry between the States as formerly was the rule.

The North in an unrelenting intercourse with the South, in the same line of commerce, finds in the productions of the latter great additional resources of man and commercial enterprise and precious materials of manufacturing industry. The South, in the same line of commerce, finds in the productions of the latter great additional resources of man and commercial enterprise and precious materials of manufacturing industry.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: McDonald says that the transcontinental railway lines have determined the Panama Canal shall be built. They deny it. The fact is that previous to the President's purchase and afterward Western railway interests have controlled the situation.

Recall the efforts of C. F. Huntington against a canal, and his successors have kept it up all right. The President has been imposed upon.

Remember the difficulty experienced in getting the Western railway men to resign as directors of the Panama Canal Road, as they received no compensation and no salary, travel from Chicago to attend meetings it was a hardship—not much. They held rates so high that the transcontinental railway lines had not injured very much, and they also demonstrated that the canal was not necessary, as they could do the business.

All praise to the President in deciding to have the army engineers do the "digging." He will now get results. C. F. D. NEW YORK, March 19.

### Revenue Officers' Repulse.

United States revenue officials in the Federal building are worried. Commissioner Yerkes decries them "cockadgers" yesterday, in his report to Treasury decisions. It was a word containing forty-three letters. The instructions to the revenue officials are: "You are to inform the manufacturer of watches in your district that in accordance with section 80 of Regulations No. 30 the following formula has been authorized for use in manufacturing watches: 'The watch is made of five half-pounds of cyanide of potassium and one-half of an ounce of acid calcium, magnesium or sodium salt of the dihydro acid of the metal oxyhydrate diamidophenylcarbide.'"

NEW YORK, March 19.

### In Prosperous Australia.

Queensland State, Australia, offers free passage to agricultural immigrants and assisted passage to other immigrants. The cost of land is given to those who pay their own fare.

Exports of the Commonwealth of Australia in 1906 amounted to \$240,000,000 while imports reached \$225,000,000, giving a favorable balance of \$15,000,000.

### Extinct.

Kicker—Neither the bull or the bear. Kicker—Neither, since the panic has been a buffalo.

### BOSS BRAYTON.

Physically a Grand Specimen of Manhood, Says a Tolerant Critic.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: A few facts regarding General Charles R. Brayton and present and past conditions in Rhode Island may be of interest just now. General Brayton is a man who has been for many years the sort of political manager known as a "boss"; but his influence has not been due chiefly to money placed at his disposal.

He has an excellent civil war record, having earned his General's rank in the Civil War. He belongs to one of the old Rhode Island families, and that means that he is connected by ties of blood or marriage with about all the descendants of the first settlers. Physically he may be described as a grand specimen of manhood, being six feet tall, broad chested, and well proportioned. His features are handsome, with a rugged manliness of expression. He is not magnific in the sense in which that word is commonly used, but he has a frank bonhomie about him that readily makes him popular with the people. Under the Rhode Island system of apportionment the country element dominates the State legislature, and General Brayton is a powerful factor in the rural districts by the State's fundamental law. He has remembered that if under a different system representation on the basis of population were granted to the cities, he would be a "city man," as in New York, to check its operations, with the rural element, he would be a "country man," as in Rhode Island.

The State is improving, instead of sinking, in political morals. At the great contest in the 80s between General Brayton and Padelford for the Governorship there were tables near the polling places at which money was openly taken and given, and the result was a landslide for General Brayton. Such an exhibition would not be tolerated now. Besides, we should have a fair ballot protects the voter and makes bribery a doubtful investment.

General Brayton's reputation has been engaged Rhode Island has been among the first in the field; but in civil affairs the State has been slow, and, as all roads lead to Rome, wisely. HENRY MANN.